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JEFFERSON STREET,  
LOUISVILLE:

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1865.

**UNION STATE TICKET.**

FOR STATE TREASURER,

**Capt. W. L. Neale,**  
Of Madison County.

**DR. LUKE BLACKBURN, REV.  
STUART ROBINSON, AND OTHER  
KENTUCKY REBELS CONSPIRE  
WITH THE REBEL INFEC-  
TION PLOT.**

The Detroit Tribune gives an account of the rebel Infestation Plot, as detailed in the confession of one J. W. Harris, which account, if true, seriously implicates the character of two noted Kentucky rebels whose names appear at the head of this article.

Dr. Luke Blackburn will be remembered as the gentleman sent by Governor Magoffin to New Orleans in 1861, for the purpose of purchasing muskets, with which the State of Kentucky was to be defended against the occupation and control of the national authorities.

The Doctor bought a lot of worthless old muskets, but we believe they were never put to any use.

Of course the State was swindled out of the money, and Dr. R. with other Kentucky traitors went straight into the bosom of Dixie "in search of his rights."

If the charges made against Dr. B. by this man Harris are true he deserves hanging as richly as the assassins now on trial for their life at Washington City. This "rebel Infestation Plot" is one of the most fiendish schemes that has been hatched in the brain of treason.

The connection of Rev. Stuart Robinson with this scheme is set forth in the statement of Harris, herewith published. From this it would seem that Dr. B. well knew of the plans of these infernal schemers, but carefully avoided committing himself to an "overt act."

We believe Dr. Robinson to be as thoroughly rebel in his sympathies and desires as Jeff Davis himself, and we have always regarded his "True Presbyterian" and his "Free Christian Commonwealth" as secession newspapers very thinly coated with rebel piety, but we have never believed and we can hardly yet permit ourselves to believe (without further proof) that he could lead himself to the furtherance of the infernal plots and schemes concocted by Dr. Blackburn and others and attempted to be carried out by the Traitor Harris. But, if the charges made by Harris against Dr. Robinson shall not be disproved, the Second Presbyterian Church of this city will have to content itself with receiving the Gospel from the lips of a loyal pastor, for most certainly Dr. R. would not return to Kentucky with these charges hanging over his head.

The S. S. Preston mentioned in connection with Dr. Robinson is well known in this city, and we believe he formerly carried on the business of manufacturing tobacco on Third street. He married the daughter of one of our prominent citizen secessionists. We are also informed that this lady was formerly a member of Dr. Robinson's church, and that Dr. R. has been boarding with the family of Mr. Preston during his residence in Canada. We herewith subjoin so much of the article of the Detroit Tribune as involves the complicity of Dr. Robinson with this infernal infestation plot, and our readers will draw their own conclusions as to his guilt or innocence.

Since writing the above, we have been further informed that Dr. Blackburn is an old friend of Dr. Robinson and that he was an attendant on the ministry if not a member of the church of the latter when he became the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church in Frankfort, some ten or twelve years since:

**WHO WAS TO EXECUTE THE PLOT.**

How Dr. Blackburn got into Canada we know not, but in the fall of 1864 we find him in the most quiet port of Toronto, on the lookout for some one to help him out of the plot. About this time one J. W. Harris, or a man known by that name, but whose true name we now have before us, came to Toronto from Helena, Arkansas, whence he had been expelled by the occupation of St. Louis, where he resided for some time after leaving Helena. He was desperate by losses of property and violent treatment by his family by our army, and wrote to H. C. Slaughter, rebel enlisting agent at Montreal, expressing a desire to go into the service.

Slaughter gave his case to the attention of Dr. S. S. Preston, who introduced him to Dr. Blackburn, who was then working as a shoe-maker in Toronto. Dr. B. was the stopping at the Queen's Hotel, Toronto, and him. At first Dr. B. was to be a recruiting agent, and told Harris to go to Montreal and send him South in company with some new recruits, but finally broached the scheme, and flattering his victim for his courage and sagacity, he enlisted him in service, promising him a good position in the rebel government in case he succeeded. Although Dr. Blackburn had succeeded in getting the endorsement of the rebel government at Richmond, he was more fortunate with the agents of that government in Canada, who entered at once into his plan, supplied him with men, and gave him their approval. Harris gives the following account of his interview with Dr. Blackburn, when the latter told him in what capacity he wanted his services. After going into a private room Dr. B. said:

"You want to serve the Confederacy?" I said.

"I want to serve the Confederacy, but I can do more than to join Lee's army with 100,000 men—can add more fame to your name than Gen. Lee." I said, what is it? He said: I have tried to get some one to go on of me, but can't get the right kind of men. I place confidence in you? I said yes. He asked me, "Are you Free Mason?" I said no. He said, well I am, and this is the right hand of friendship of a Free Mason, which will never degrade or betray; will you accept it in friendship? I want to kill and destroy as many of the people of the place you go to as you can; it is a common case of goods, spirits, paints, etc.; they will have yellow fever in them. I said I will give him said I will guarantee to you, if you will do this, that you shall have \$60,000, and this would be half of what you will make. I said I did not have any money as that, but I will go whatever the money be. He says, now go to your work and be ready to hear from me about the 13th of May next. This was in December, 1863. Doctor Robinson was living in Queen street No. 33. I moved to 123 York street April 3, 1864. May 10th Doctor sent a letter from Havanna to Dr. Robinson containing my instructions; he brought the letter opened (he having read it,) to my house and laid it on the counter before my wife and said to her, there is a letter for your husband, I can have nothing to do with this

myself. The letter directed me to go to Halifax, and there call on Alexander. He told me, Dr. R. however, to get the money to go with from Dr. R., or if he could not advance it all, to go to Halifax. I came in afterward and found the letter from wife; I received it, and sent to Dr. Robinson at Satonda night, half an hour after he brought the letter. He was stopping with Mr. Preston, where he has been all the time. He said what was to do about the letter. He said I did not want to know anything about this, and I did not want Dr. R. to write to me about it. I do not want to do any overt act. Wait till Monday and we will see what to do." He said what will you do with your family? Was it safe to leave the in the shop to tell him the truth, or would I leave my wife in a private house, where he could look after her while I was gone? Monday morning again I called on Dr. R.; he said he could not give the money; he is now at all events, he could do nothing; said go into Dr. Preston's office, tell him the details, and I will see it all right; I borrowed the ten dollars from P. through the influence of W. L. McDonald (called Gary McDonald); he went down to the office with me; this was in the fore part of June; I think Saturday, the 1st of June, Dr. R. is from Louisville. Ky. S. S. Preston is in Toronto, and from Covington; he is now in the city of New York; there for health; his business goes on in Toronto; Lieutenant Colonel Hall, from Kentucky (Louisville), is his partner. I gave Preston a receipt for the money, and this was in the post-office on York street, between King and Wellington, west side, opposite Rosin House; the receipt said the money was "on account of Dr. H. Blackburn." Blackburn's letter said, "I get the money, and I will return it when I come back."

**LED OFF INTO THE REBELLION.**

Speaking of William Preston Johnson the Louisville Democrat after saying very truly "that he was of a kind and genial disposition, and of courteous and pleasing manners" adds: "Among all who were led off by the present rebellion there is not one more beloved or regretted than Johnson." This talk about a man of Johnson's education and intelligence being led off into rebellion is the sheerest nonsense. Mr. Johnson was neither led nor forced into the rebellion, but went into it like thousands of others of our young men that were Proslavery democrats, viz of his own deliberate choice.

Johnson, we take it, was a man of some pretensions to independence of character, and would feel insulted if told that he was led into the course which his judgment approved. Like hundreds and thousands of others, Mr. Johnson went into the rebellion simply because he was a *rebel*, and that was reason enough. In 1861 eight tenths of the Breckinridge pro-slavery Democrats in this State took to rebellion and treason as naturally as a duck takes to water. They didn't require inoculation with the virus of treason, but the disease came quite in the natural way, and the cure came naturally as the disease. Uncle Sam's bayonets are a sovereign remedy. That remedy has already given the rebellion an effectual purging. It is a good remedy for both purposes. We have no doubt it has effectually cured William Preston Johnson, and sympathetically it has had its effects on the Louisville Democrat, but the latter is decidedly a "hard case."

**Our European Correspondence.**

Tribute to America and Lincoln from a Friend of Cobden and Bright.

LIVERPOOL, May 12, 1865.

EDS. PRESS—Last evening had the privilege of listening to an address upon America and President Lincoln, by Mr. Henry Vining, and a great privilege it was. The speaker was a man of great eloquence, for whom the intimate friend of Cobden and Bright, and an earnest co-worker with them in the reform movements, was a guarantee that the speaker would do full justice to our country and cause, and his reputation as a powerful orator and most effective debater, as well as interesting and telling speech. My anticipations were, therefore, more than realized. The address was one of consummate power and thrilling eloquence, melting the audience to tears, convulsing them with laughter, rousing them to wild enthusiasm as he spoke in tones of fire and flame, gave utterance to keen sarcasm, and oration in the grand principles, and with a prophet's fire and solemnity predicted their certain triumph. For nearly two hours he held us entranced.

The address took a wide range. The motives of the rebellion, its utter want of justifying cause, the reasons why at first it excited the admiration of the world, that animated our Government, and the loss of people, our vast resources and the conservation of them to liberty and humanity, the character of Mr. Lincoln, so transparent and beautiful, the nobleness and purity of his soul, his profound wisdom and tender pity, the marvellous, awe-inspiring calmness with which he met the American crisis, the masterly ability and gallantry of Grant, Sherman and Sheridan, the heroism of our army, the military skill and genius of Lee, and the courage and fortitude of the Southern soldiers in a bad cause, and the sacrifice of our men and their families to our cause, and the unswerving uncompromising devotion to liberty; the glorious future opening before us, which will make the great American republic free from slavery in all time, the friends of human kind, the pioneer to progress, the orator to freedom, the champion of the oppressed, the teacher of the ignorant, and with much freshness and vivacity that the interest was not only sustained throughout, but was intense.

The lecturer was very happy in his epitomizing Mr. Lincoln as "the clean-handed, upright, simple, sturdy-minded and incorruptible," and in the sudden, unexpected turns with which every now and then he enlivened his argument. Speaking of the charge that Americans are swayed, "of course they swagger," he said, "that they are not to be called children," and commenting on the reason that they elected fifth-rate men to office, he exclaims: "Well, if Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Lincoln and Johnson are their fifth-rate, pray, what must their first-rate be?"

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